

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

APPLICANTS: Vance et al. ) ART UNIT: 3671  
SERIAL NO.: 10/855,792 ) EXAMINER: Raymond W. Addie  
FILED : 08/20/01 )

RESPONSE

THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This is a response in the above-identified patent application to an Office Action dated 11/05/02, with time for response set to expire on 02/05/03, and with the petition and fee filed by U.S. Mail today on 03/05/03. With this response a total of 11 claims remain pending including 3 independent claims.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims which are in clean form:

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**Claim 1 (amended).**

A ditch forming apparatus comprising:

a hopper having a front end and a rear end joined by a pair of side members, an outer surface, an inner surface, an open top, and an open bottom;

a first frame member attached to the front end of the hopper, the first frame member having a first pair of wheels attached thereto;

a second frame member attached to the rear end of the hopper, the second frame member having a second pair of wheels attached thereto;

#5/A

3/2/03

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Examiner R. Addie

Art Unit 3671

RE: 09/933,325

**FROM:**

Peter Loffler

**DATE:**

03/05/2003

**FAX NUMBER:**

(703) 305-8623

or 703 894 9326

**TOTAL PAGES** (including cover)**14****Official**

Dear Examiner Addie:

Enclosed are the following:

Response to Office Action - 12 pages  
Change of Correspondence Address - 1 page.**FAX RECEIVED****MAR 06 2003****GROUP 3600**

A petition for extension of time was filed today by US Mail and included the appropriate fee. If you need further information, please let me know.

Peter Loffler

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